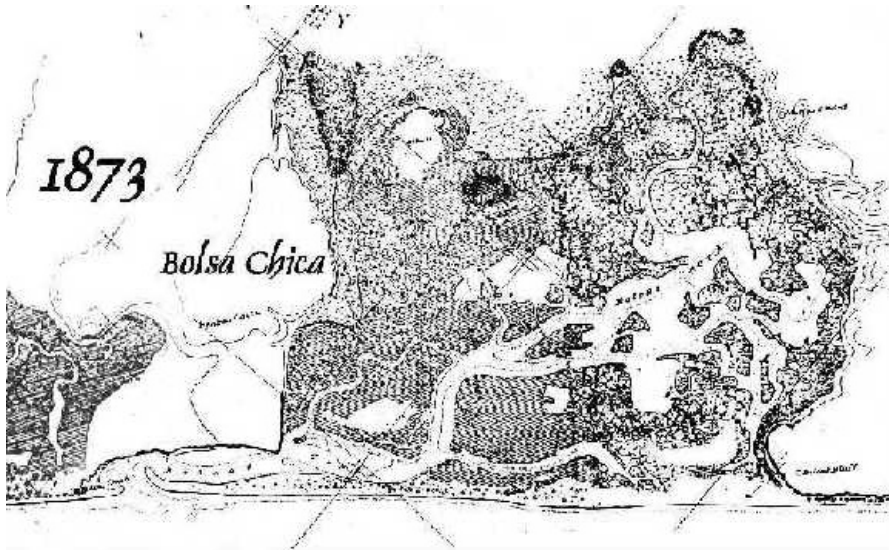


Project History



Historically, thousands of acres of highly productive saltwater and freshwater marshes extended from Anaheim Bay to the Huntington Beach bluffs, including the area known as Bolsa Chica. In 1899 Bolsa Chica was diked to create the Bolsa Chica Gun Club, and later diked further and drained for oil extraction that began in the 1920's. Since then, much of the adjacent wetland and aquatic areas have been drained or filled for development. In the early 1970's, the remaining wetlands at Bolsa Chica were proposed for large-scale residential and commercial developments, but these efforts over the next two decades were not successful. In 1997, under a State-Federal interagency agreement, most of the remaining lowland portions of Bolsa Chica were purchased by the State of California using mitigation funds from the Ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach for the purpose of wetland restoration.